

General Plan Program Citizens' Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting #3 – July 7, 2003

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) for the General Plan program held its third meeting on Monday, July 7, 2003 at 6:00 P.M. on the 7th floor of City Hall, in the Mayor's Ceremonial conference room. Attendees were as follows:

CAC Members

Surekha Acharya
General Stan Brown
Manuel Carrasco
Finn Comer
Kimberly Davidson-Morgan
George Flower
Barry Johnson
Maureen Kane
David Leonard
Maynard Lowry
David McNiel
Tom Pevehouse
Sally Silva
Kenneth Sutter
Mike Teer
Judy Teunissen
Bill Warkentin (BIA alternate)

Those members of the CAC who were unable to attend informed Planning staff in advance of the meeting.

City Staff

Ken Gutierrez, Planning Director
Craig Aaron, Principal Planner
Diane Jenkins, AICP, Senior Planner
Patricia Brenes, Associate Planner

Consultant Team

John Bridges, Cotton/Bridges/Associates
Laura Stetson, Cotton/Bridges/Associates
John Cook, Cotton/Bridges/Associates
Larry Morrison, The Arroyo Group
Jean D'Agostino, The Arroyo Group

Minutes from the June 23, 2003 CAC Meeting

McNiel stated that on page 4, under Education, the second bullet point's second sentence should be revised to state "Do not allow further encroachment into historic districts, particularly downtown."

The minutes were approved as revised.

Objectives/Strategies Workbook

The consultant team resumed discussion of the General Plan workbook, picking up at Public Safety and Seismic issues. Below is a summary of key points by subject area.

Public Safety/Seismic Safety

- The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is outdated and needs to be replaced.
- Address infrastructure needs along primary evacuation/response routes.
- Ensure that police/fire facilities are strategically located so no area would be isolated from these services in the event of an emergency.

Fire Prevention/Firefighting Services

- Don't put fire-flow rates in the General Plan; the information is too specific.
- Should the City consider a policy to increase the ISO rating?
- Regarding Policy PS 2.10: The UBC does not require separations between buildings. Should this specificity be eliminated in the policy?
- Regarding Policy PS 2.9: The Environmental Topic Group expressed concern that fire prevention methods (disking soil) can have negative air quality impacts and reduce/destroy habitat. Are there other methods that could be used that are less damaging? Balance fire safety needs with the goal of environmental preservation/conservation.
- Regarding a policy to accommodate "skinny streets": both fire trucks and school buses may have difficulty using narrow streets. It's not economical for the school districts to buy new buses.

Police Services

- The City should ensure that adequate services are provided to residents and businesses.
- AB 1600 fees can only be used for infrastructure and not for police services. Make sure the workbook is changed accordingly.
- Circulation/safety issue: make sure that streets are connected.
- Coordinate services between colleges/universities that have their own police services; improve services to surrounding neighborhoods.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

- Fine-tune Policies PS 6.1 and 6.2; use a term different than “defensible space”.
- A CAC member expressed concern about urban light pollution. Staff stated that this would be addressed through urban design and zoning.
- Regarding the last two CPTED strategies: there is concern about potential problems with losing privacy/intimate spaces. The City needs to balance concerns about security with a desire for intimate urban spaces with concerns about excessive light pollution.
- Light needs to be sized to the situation.

Flood Hazards

- Can upgrade of the Santa Ana River be tied to flood control issues?
- Multiple uses of the river need to be factored into the planning process.
- Flood control need not reduce the natural character of a site.

Potential policy: “Encourage flood control techniques along the Santa Ana River that do not conflict with recreational use.”

Transportation Hazards

- Make people aware of the responsibilities of pedestrians.
- Include language about traffic calming.
- Can ATVs be used in Sycamore Canyon to help stranded people?
- Pedestrian needs should be considered with new railroad grade separations.
- Are there funds for the maintenance of pedestrian facilities?

Hazardous Materials

- Beef up programs to make the public aware of hazardous waste and how to dispose of it.

Airports

- Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) and airport AICUZ studies need to be recognized in the planning process.
- Should a policy statement regarding compliance with AICUZ be included?
- Traffic patterns around Ontario Airport – the routing of FedEx/UPS planes over La Sierra during very early morning hours – disrupts the community. Work with other airports to minimize overflights.

Noise Element

- Does the Plan need for a separate policy to address airport noise?
- Should the General Plan reflect a higher tolerance for noise in an urban environment versus rural areas?
- Train noise is a concern:
 - Grade separation removes need for whistle blowing.
 - Ability for “horn on a stick” instead of train whistles? Recent change in federal law now permits these. The City should strongly encourage these.

Open Space, Conservation, Parks

- The CAC expressed concern regarding the Sphere and including a requirement for dedication of open space in Sphere. There is already parkland requirement on the books.
- "Develop a program for City acquisition" policy could be extended to include the SOI. Or take out the strategy that is specific to SOI area?
- Encourage clustering of homes as means of preserving open space.
- The stated strategy about average natural slope may be too specific for the General Plan.
- Some of these strategies don't adequately reflect the near implementation of the Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan.
- Change "wooded drainage canal" to "riparian corridors" or "feature" or "channel".
- There is lack of clarity on the term "sustainable".
- With regard to landscaped parkways, developers are willing to set up mechanisms (assessment districts). The City has not wanted them in the past. The City already maintains most of the reverse frontage areas and has thus discouraged additional reverse frontage to reduce maintenance needs. The City has allowed maintenance endowments.
- Consensus: encourage broader use of lighting and landscaping districts. New developments could annex into these.

Parks and Recreational Facilities

- The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is available on line via the Planning Department website.
- Does the City have an "adopt the park" program?
 - Friends of Mt. Rubidoux – approved by Council in 1994 – contribute money towards that park.
 - Similar organizations exist for Victoria.
 - Stronger policy statement to encourage/nurture such organization?
- Provide small neighborhood parks which HOAs will probably provide and maintain. This is a separate issue of providing Quimby fee credits (public parks) for these.
- There is concern about security issues at parks.

Agriculture

- Change the Goal to "to provide incentives to preserve designated agricultural lands...".
- Are transfer of development rights (TDR) provisions still appropriate? Staff indicated that TDRs can work successfully with the establishment of appropriate preserving/receiving zones. Also, a strong market is needed.
- Amend policy to encourage a broad range of techniques including clustering, TDRs, etc.

Energy Resources, Water Resources, Air Quality

- The CAC noted that these goals and policies can be condensed/combined significantly.
- Are passive solar goals limited by setbacks/other zoning regulations?
- Simplify to state that the City will comply with regional, federal, state requirements.
- Getting businesses here to reduce commuting would improve air quality.

- Be a leader in improving regional air quality.
- We need to ensure that policies across elements are complementary.

Education

- Focus element goals and policies on the potential for partnerships between the different educational institutions.
- Growth is an educational issue that is coupled with the need for facilities expansion. We need to be able to build schools at the right time, not at the end of development.
- Joint use is a local issue. RUSD wants to create additional joint use opportunities through a balanced approach. Example: performing arts buildings
- Do not have the element focus on overly specific issues such as test scores.

Urban Design

This subject will return for discussion with Land Use issues at the August 4 and October 6 CAC meetings.

Next Meetings EXT

August 4: Land use options for different areas of community

September 8: Circulation issues

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.